

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

July 7, 2010

9:50–12:30 pm

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present:** Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Ed Childers, Stacy Rye, Dave Strohmaier, Roy Houseman, Jason Weiner

**Members Absent:** Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Lyn Hellegaard, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins

**Others Present:** Jackie Corday, Nancy & Charlie Deschamps, owners, Mary Manning, OSAC, Erin Focher, Park Intern, Mike Mueller, RMEF

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

None

### II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

### IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS –

- A. Open Space Project Fieldtrip – Deschamps Ranch NW of WYE ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 06/28/10) (**INFORMATION ITEM - REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

Landowners Charlie & Nancy Deschamps and Mike Mueller from the Rocky Mt Elk Foundation (RMEF) took us on a fieldtrip of Charlie's 1036 acre ranch property located NW of the WYE above O'Keefe Estates on the west side of Hwy 93. The land is located entirely within the Open Space Plan boundaries, but it is about ½ in the Missoula Planning Region and ½ in the Frenchtown Planning Region and thus RMEF has applied for open space bond funding of \$175,000 from both the City and County.

Charlie believes the property has been owned by the Deschamps family since the late 1800's and has been used mostly for cattle grazing and timber harvesting. There are no structures on the property, just some gravel ranch roads. The property consists predominately of open grassy fields that range from pasture grasses to healthy native bunch grasses and forbes. The northern 1/3 of the property is forested predominately by Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir and is traversed by Deschamps Creek, a tributary to O'Keefe Creek. The ranchland is bordered to the south and east by residential properties averaging 10 acres in size, to the west by large acreage parcels, and to the north by USFS lands.

OSAC members visited the property on June 10<sup>th</sup> and will do their final evaluation at their August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. If they recommend expending the funds, the project will move on to Council and the Commissioners for their approval sometime in September.

**See pictures below of property**

### V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

### VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Photos from the trip . . .





